Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* May I know who is looking after the compound of the Ayurvedic Hospital close by?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I do not know.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Are there any funds to be managed?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* We have got a very large number of assets of different degrees. We have to ascertain where precisely we stand. Action has to be taken, the papers have to be scrutinised and legal proceedings instituted wherever necessary. All these cannot be done by a peon.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* May I know whether Government have any objection to disband the surplus staff?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* You mean to say for another period of 3 months?

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Is it the intention of the Government to revive it after 3 months?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Yes, certainly.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know what is meant by full-fledged Government servant? It is stated in the answer that he is not a full-fledged Government servant.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* It is a mistake. I should have stated that he is not a full time servant of the institution.

TENTS FOR THE STATE—PURCHASE OF

228. Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) when were the tents for the State purchased;

(*b*) how many tents were purchased and how much did they cost;

(*c*) were there any subsequent purchases;

(*d*) who was the supervising officer of these tents; were they subsequently transferred to any other officer; if so, why were they transferred;

(*e*) is there any tent-keeper and if so, what is his pay;

(*f*) is this full time job for him and is he attending to any other work than that relating to tent; if so, is there any justification for having a full time officer;

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(*g*) how many times a year these tents are being put to use for the last 5 years and on what all occasions ;

(*h*) what is the annual budget allotment with respect to these tents ?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar *(Officiating Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) Many of the tents now in stock have been purchased about 35 years ago.

(*b*) The information is not available. Now there are 29 tents belonging to the Government.

(*c*) One Cricketer's marque tent was purchased since 1931.

(*d*) The tents were originally in the charge of Police Department. At that time they were being looked after by D'Costa, a contractor of Ernakulam. In 1931 D'Costa expressed his inability to look after these tents. The Police Department then said that they will be unable to be in charge of these tents as their Town Inspector cannot find time to attend to these tents. They were then transferred to the Public Works Department.

(*e*) Yes. A caretaker on a pay of Rs. 15—20.

(*f*) The caretaker has to periodically get the tents pitched to prevent them to be spoiled by mildew, white ants, worms, etc. He has also to air and dust them and see to their issue, receipts, etc., and on certain occasions to accompany them to places where they are required and see them pitched carefully. At other times his services are utilised in the Mechanical Assistant Engineer's Office.

(*g*) These tents are made use of for Government functions such as Garden Parties and in connection with the visits of distinguished personages as Viceroy, Governors, etc. The tents are also occasionally let for other purposes such as Scout Rallies, etc., and to other private parties according to Government orders.

(*h*) Rs. 200 for annual maintenance.

SPECIAL GUARDS—STRENGTH OF

229. Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the total number of special guards enlisted at present ; and

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